



# AXIOLOGY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Aayan Sharma<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Rakesh Rai<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student, Social Sciences, Amity Institute of Social Sciences, Noida, India.

## ABSTRACT

In this record I will be endeavouring to outline and understand of the impact that climate change has had on social inequalities in developing nations, especially that of India. I will be doing this as such by drawing upon a scope of experiences from social theory, anthropological and socio-economic aspects, all of which are grounded in a growing body of academic evidence. Through the exploration of this topic I aim to demonstrate that social, anthropological and behavioural factors are significant in clarifying why we as a society have not, yet, taken significant steps towards correcting resulting disparity that occurs due to the impact climate change has on society in the terms specifically discussed in this paper, as stated above. The power of social norms and sanctions give us behavioural insights tell us that people are inevitably influenced by what others around them are doing either positively or negatively. This paper in part explores how social norms can encourage the adoption of environmentally conscious behaviour and at what cost does that arrive at.

**KEYWORDS:** climate change, social inequality, social behaviour, SDGS, sustainable development

## INTRODUCTION:

We live in a generation in which, for the reason, that the onset of the economic revolution in Europe, is marked by using human activity and growth in exceptional ways. Socio-ecological change, including temperature increase because of the human emission of greenhouse gases, maintains to accelerate; one should even communicate of acceleration for the reason that early 1990s, or simply of worldwide overheating (Eriksen 2016). This situation represents a primary undertaking for all people, whether we identify with our familial units, countries, religions, humanity, or the whole world at large. The contemporary world of climate change has now not evaded the focus of the social sciences. In popular social theory, climate change has been discussed as a consequence of the increase paradigm and uncertainties produced by way of modernity.

While Anthony Giddens (2002) wrote about 'a runaway world' in which accelerated modifications have been disorderly, and Zygmunt Bauman (2000) argued that modernity by way of default produces uncertainties and instability, Ulrich Beck (2009) has increasingly given due consideration to climate change as the defining global hazard of modernity, one that highly accomplished industrialization has inflicted on itself, and that might no longer be solvable via single-state solutions. Focusing on velocity, instead of danger, Hartmut Rosa (2015) has argued that social life is increasingly expediting as people produce, talk, and shipping increasingly more. Thereby, international capitalism creates a state of affairs where assets are being depleted and our environment suffers.

## METHODOLOGY:

Subjective analysts start with a self-evaluation and reflections about themselves as arranged in a social-authentic setting. It is a profoundly mindful affirmation of social self, or of a researcher's position in the public arena. This kind of approach doesn't barely zero in on a particular question yet consider the hypothetical philosophical worldview in a curious, open- ended continuation of interrelated answers in service of the topic. An interdisciplinary approach is most crucial in pursuing the study of climate change and its impact on the human condition in all its forms. This leads to various collaborations amongst the scientific fields, may that be of either the social sciences or the natural sciences.

## DISCUSSION:

Environmental consciousness can be broken up into procedural knowledge and informational interventions. Climate change, is in large part a result of man-made enterprise, is arguably the most comprehensive and toughest challenge facing humanity today. Even if a huge human impact on the climate is a current phenomenon, the realisation that climate has an impact on human life isn't new. The issue of climate change inevitably raises questions surrounding the energy consumption of humans. In the pursuit of leading a more "clean" lifestyle, humans have adopted more increasingly harrowing ways to exploit the different types of naturally occurring energy sources on earth, which has led to a more accelerated deterioration of the earth and the climate and it's resources..

One of the most frequently referenced founders of medical science, Hippocrates (b. 460 BCE), wrote a treatise known as *On Airs, Waters, Places*, the first systematic step was taken to establish a contingent relationship between human sickness and their immediate surroundings. He held that temperament becomes associated with climate and that droughts, rains, heat waves, and seasonal modifications had a routine effect on the human condition. Much later, during the Enlight-

enment, the social theorist Montesquieu (1689-1755) noticed a near courting among climate and social lifestyles. Notably, Montesquieu believed that cold air made people full of life, even as warmth made them torpid, with what he deemed to be critical implications for cultural improvement.

Dismissed through later social theorists as simplistic environmental determinism, comparable thoughts have never quite disappeared. What is new within the modern age is the almost acquainted reputation of humanity's effect on weather and its potentially catastrophic effects on life on the earth in the future. In this discipline, all those invested within the research in the pursuit of numerous sciences are making essential contributions to knowledge and analysis. Before thinking about those contributions, however, it's far necessary to offer a quick overview of the wider context wherein contemporary issues with climate change is located.

Inequality has been an ongoing problem within the entire climate change discourse it is well-known it comes below the category of the discussion on "climate justice" which in flip is an offshoot of the "environmental justice" issue. However, the point of interest of this dialogue has been principally centered on inequality which ranges across nations, we fail to acknowledge the inequalities that arise within our countries itself. That is to say that the inequality or discrimination which results because of climate change within the countries we reside in are not given as much of international or theoretical attention. Social inequality has obtained even much less interest, as we similarly discuss the effect that climate change has on the social factors of human existence we will additionally be referencing the impact climate change has on the more tangible factors. The international discussion surrounding the impact of climate change was primarily focused on the tangible side of things that is the impact of climate change has on nature. It is time due consideration was given to the social impact that was sustained due to climate change, the evidence was presented regarding the relationship between climate change and poverty in livelihood and health.

Gratuitously put, there are several types of inequality still to be considered within a domestic setting of the issue at hand. On one side there are any qualities based on demographic characteristics such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and age. On the second hand, we have the type of inequality that is based on personal assets and income, acquired by individuals comprising the population. A tertiary type of inequality is that regarding political power and access to public resources such as publicly funded services of health, education, housing, and finance. Furthermore in this, we will see that regional inequality within a country often coincides with inequality regarding race, ethnicity, religion. We use the umbrella term "social inequality" to refer to all these different types of inequalities within the country. The concept of social inequality used in this paper is multidimensional. The availability of data in regards to income inequality shows that the people living in poverty or just above the poverty line suffer disproportionately from the more harrowing effects of climate change than the rich. This is not to say that other social groups which are marginalised based on gender age race and ethnic city do not suffer at the hands of climate change.

Some researchers have previously cited that climate change has exasperated inequality and the evidence provided in support of this claim was indirect and not focused on the inequalities suffered by the people. The implications in regards to the discrimination suffered are suggested, almost, as an afterthought. When seen through the lease of the unifying conceptual framework on the aspects of social

inequality and climate change the relationship between the two is characterised by a vicious cycle whereby antecedent inequality expedites the disproportionate suffering from the adverse effects of climate change resulting in subsequent inequality. Sure we identify three channels through which this cycle unfolds. First, inequality is accelerated by the exposure of disadvantaged social groups to climate hazards. Secondly, given the level of exposure inequality further increases the disadvantaged groups' susceptibility to the damage resulting in environmental hazards. Thirdly, the disparity in social classes decreases these particular groups' relative ability to cope with and recover from the damages they have suffered.

The 2030 UNDP agenda for sustainable development has highlighted the issues of both domestic and international inequalities and calls for the reduction of both. The sustainable development goals or the SDGs were born as a concept in the United Nations conference on sustainable development in Rio +20 in 2012. These are a set of universally applicable goals that balance three dimensions of sustainable development that is environmental, social, and economic. The sustainable development goals build on the millennium development goals which were aimed at a variety of issues that included slash in poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to water and sanitation. The newer sustainable development goals and the wider sustainability agenda go far beyond the above-stated millennium development goals they aim to address the root causes of poverty and the global need for development that works for all people. These goals are in direct contrast to the reality that is faced by the people that is to say that while the sustainable development goals are inherently optimistic they do not align with the reality.

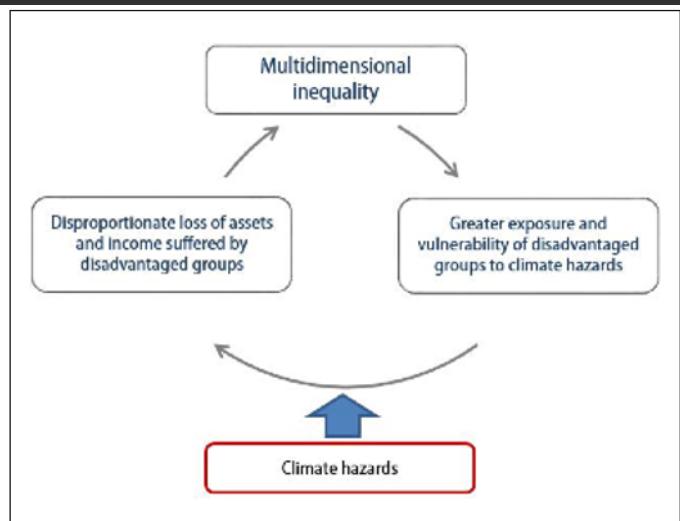
This is that due to climate change there has been a marked increase in poverty owing to the effects and impact it has on agriculture, flooding, malnutrition, water resources, sanitation, and health. The 2008 Human Development Report dedicated an entire chapter to the discussion of vulnerability and risks associated with climate change for disadvantaged social groups.

Unsurprisingly this discussion of the effect of climate change on poverty quite often extends itself to the impact of climate change on inequality. As previously stated that socially and economically disadvantaged and marginalised groups are disproportionately affected by climate change, we understand that the climate change impacts tend to be counter-revolutionary, that is that they tend to harm the poor more than the rich. As the overall conclusion is drawn that climate change accelerates inequality it is worth noting that socially and geographically disadvantaged people including those facing discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race, class, caste, indigeneity, and disability are particularly impacted negatively by environmental hazards. As noted above exacerbation of inequality can occur through disproportionate erosion of tangible, human, and social assets. Climate change adaptation expenditure is often found to be selfishly driven more by wealth than by need, so in conclusion, these expenditures end up aggravating inequality rather than aiding in decreasing it.

Regardless of the progress stated above in the dialogue of the inter-linkages between climate change and social inequalities so far goes through several problems. The highly glaring one of these problems is the unavailability of a definitive unifying conceptual framework. Secondly, the illustrated data provided so far is usually of an indirect and conjectural nature. In several cases, the discussion continues to stay confined to general statements. Usually, these illustrations are provided in regards to specific locations and impacts suffered and extrapolation is our maids on its basis. Subsequently, relatively few studies have made an attempt to directly study the effect that climate change has on social inequality.

As we proceed further we will be looking at the relationship between climate change and inequality. We will begin this by noting the three ways through which inequality increases the situation of the disadvantaged groups vis-a-vis climate change. The evidence provided previously has suggested inequality is exacerbated by the position of the discriminated groups of society vis-a-vis climate change impacts in the following three ways.

- Firstly increase in the exposure to climate hazards,
- Increase in the vulnerability to damage caused by climate hazards and
- Thirdly the decrease in the ability to cope with and further recover from the damage.



To have a basic understanding of how these channels work let's take an example of earthquakes one of the most grave consequences of climate change is an increase in earthquakes. The evidence clearly states that due to disparity in income and social class disadvantage groups or income but live in areas that are more prone to earthquakes thus increasing their exposure to earthquakes caused by climate change. Secondly among those residing in the more vulnerable to the damages caused by quakes. For example, their houses are completely destroyed or severely damage because they are made of flimsy material. By contrast, the houses of the more fortunate suffer less damage because they are usually made from materials such as brick and concrete which were sturdier in nature finally the disadvantaged groups have the least ability to cope with and recover from the damages caused by the quakes. Building on the example stated above the rich may have insurance and thus get compensated for the damages caused alternatively the disadvantage groups or not able to afford such insurance and thus have to take on the entire loss themselves which leads to a greater loss of the position of their assets.

It should be observed here that the above-stated effects of climate change can be spread through two channels, which are political and economic. To further explain this let us take the previously stated example and explore that. The disadvantaged groups are already in a position where their assets and resources are the bare minimum, they are already susceptible to environmental hazards. Now, through the economic channels, the more fortunate can secure their insurance and security, as it costs quite a bit of capital investment, which just is not possible for the disadvantaged groups to access for the above-stated reasons. In this manner, the economic channels reduce the access of the disadvantaged groups the private facilities. The second manner in which the rich can curb the access of the people to better facilities is through political power. In an unequal society, the people who own the usually most productive assets in the state power are yet again the more affluent section of society, they usually "acquire" or expend forceful influence on the state to sway policies and other favours in their direction.

Given the region, one of the most important determinants of the exposure to climatic disasters belongs to occupation and the type of work that is being performed. For example the the daily wage labourers who work outdoors are always prone to accidents and are constantly exposed to harsh weather and hazards.

Needless to mention, inequality performs a critical function in the preference or allocation of profession and type of tasks carried out. Apart from income and asset inequality, gender and different sorts of inequality play an essential function in this regard. For example, rural women's decreased asset positions in addition to land tenure arrangements and social restrictions restricted the land to be handed to them. This leads women farmers to work on more marginal land that is uncovered to extra climate-related risks . Also, social norms in many places require the women to acquire water and firewood, frequently compelling them to journey long distances and confront unsafe conditions in places where those are scarce. Consequently, they face more exposure to the detrimental effects of climate trade.

Gender and age play a vital role in determining the susceptibility to harm due to destructive outcomes of climate change. As referred to above, the truth that women in many countries are tasked with amassing water and firewood approach that they may be more at risk of damages from weather hazards reveals that extended drought created poverty traps for ladies in Gituamba, Kenya. Using household surveys and village consciousness institution research conducted across 9 international locations in Africa, find that there are a number of troubles affecting girls that cause them to greater prone to effects of climate alternate than men.

Both the young and the old prove to be more at risk of damage because of environmental hazards than the adults. This is not perplexing, given their relative fra-

gility. For instance, IPCC reports that flood-associated mortality in Nepal among ladies turned into two times as excessive as for girls (13. Three consistent with 1000 girls). The mortality becomes additionally higher for boys than for men (IPCC, 2014, p. 807-808). Hallegatte, et al. (2016) reviewed the amazing incidence of ailments amongst youngsters following floods in Ho Chi Minh City. Heatwaves don't have any-table effects on the aged, particularly as they're already more likely to be afflicted by chronic illnesses, inclusive of coronary heart ailment or respiratory sicknesses that can be exacerbated employing warmth (Hutton, 2008). Elderly people are also greater susceptible to extra health results from floods and are less able to relocate within the occasion of failures (Hutton, 2008). Elderly citizens of Limpopo, South Africa lacked get admission to to labour, important to construct their houses to withstand flooding. Consequently, their dwellings suffered more harm. (Khandhela and May, 2006).

These differential influences apply across a selection of deprived social groups. For instance, it was discovered in Vietnam that the elderly, widows, and disabled people – further to single mothers and female-headed families with young children – were most prone to damages triggered both by way of floods and storms and via gradual-onset occasions consisting of recursive droughts (IPCC, 2014, p. 808-809). Similarly, Macchi et al. (2014) raise the awareness that lower caste families, women and different marginal businesses within the Himalayan villages in northwest India and Nepal are extra at risk of climate related consequences.

The degree of susceptibility frequently relies upon ethnicity and race. For example, the minority farmers, who make up the bulk of the populace inside the Irrawaddy delta in Myanmar, have been extra liable to damages due to lack of effective caution systems and infrastructure and consequently suffered the most in phrases of lost lives, incomes and assets as a result of the cyclone Nargis in 2008 (Mutter, 2015). IPCC (2014) notes the critical role of social positions of various corporations in determining the impact of climate alternate. For example, in lots of locations in Latin America, Afro-Latinos and indigenous businesses had been observed to be afflicted by disproportionate climate consequences. (IPCC, 2014, p. 810). Moreover, the differential effect of climate alternate with respect to race is located in both growing and developed nations, although in each instance low-profit status is also intertwined with race and ethnicity repute.

## RESULTS:

The analytical framework supplied in this paper can be used to study and understand the connection between climate change and social inequality.

First of all, searching the world over, we see that low-income countries are greater exposure to the unfavourable outcomes of climate change. More of those countries are, *inter alia*, positioned in tropical areas; have low elevation; lie in typhoon, cyclone, and tsunami zones; situated in arid regions, already going through water scarcity; and so on. Consequently, they are more exposed to such climate change consequences as sea stage an upward push; salinity intrusion; improved occurrence, scope, and ferocity of cyclones and hurricanes; precipitation imbalance; and so forth.

By comparison, most of the excessive-income countries are positioned in cold and temperate zones, wherein some humans, in fact, welcome temperature increase, arguing that it's going to elongate the crop developing season, boom the crop region, reduce home heating fees, and so on, leading to increase in output and well-being. While experience has tempered some of these early expectancies, it stays the case that those countries are generally much less exposed to rising sea levels, growth inside the prevalence of hurricanes, and different unfavourable outcomes of climate exchange. Thus, it's a traditionally given reality that low-earning countries are usually greater exposed to the detrimental outcomes of climate change.

Second, low-income countries also are more susceptible to the damages resulting from climate change effects. The motives aren't too far to peer. For instance, the Netherlands – an excessive-profit country – is also low-lying and is exposed to rising sea levels. However, it has constructed sea walls and different structures, in order that it is not as vulnerable to damages due to sea degree rise as is the case with many low-lying, low-income, tropical island international locations.

We, for this reason, see that low-income countries, in general, are greater exposed to the unfavorable results of climate exchange. They also are more vulnerable to the damages caused over time due to climate change. They also have less potential to manage and recover. Consequently, climate change is worsening the relative function of the low-income nations, thus irritating inequality throughout the world.